

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SCS-03 /066 W

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R 210900Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO AMCONSUL MEDAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5384

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJ: ANTI-BAPTIST INCIDENTS IN BUKITTINGGI

FURTHER DELAY HOSPITAL OPENING

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING CALL ON CHARGE NOVEMBER 19,
PROBLEM OF OPENING HOSPITAL IN BUKITTINGGI SAID
FURTHER COMPLICATED BY RECENT DISCOVERY OF CLANDESTINE
CAMPAIGN AGAINST BAPTISTS WHICH RESULTED IN ARRESTS OF
NINE TO TWELVE EXTREMIST MOSLEM YOUTHS. CAMPAIGN, WHICH
HAS PRODUCED VIGOUOUS RESPONSE FROM SECURITY AUTHORITIES,
INCLUDED ANONYMOUS THREATS AGAINST BAPTIST PERSONNEL,
DISTRIBUTION OF ILLEGAL PAMPHLETS, PLANNED DEMONSTRA-
TIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTS OF VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY

1. APPLEWHITE SAID BAPTISTS BELIEVED THEY HAD FINALLY
BROKEN LONG IMPASSE OVER HOSPITAL JUST BEFORE INCIDENTS
OCCURRED BY OBTAINING WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM GOVERNOR
ZAIN AND VERBAL PROMISE FROM MINISTER OF HEALTH IN EARLY OCT
TO OPEN HOSPITAL WITH AMERICAN PERSONNEL, IN BOTH
CASES, HOWEVER, PERMISSION SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY PRESIDENT.

2. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, APPLEWHITE RECEIVED THREATENING
TELEGRAM SIGNED "MESJID RAYA, BUKITTINGGI", DEMANDING
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BAPTISTS LEAVE BUKITTINGGI. COPIES OF THIS TELEGRAM ALSO

SENT TO GOVERNOR ZAIN, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND OTHERS.
(EMBASSY RECEIVED SIMILAR MORE MILDLY WORDED APPEAL FROM
MESJID RAYA AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME). BAPTISTS ALSO
RECEIVED THREATENING LETTER AND TELEPHONE CALL IN BUKITTINGGI.

3. ON OCTOBER 8 BUKITTINGGI POLICE ARRESTED NINE YOUTHS
DISTRIBUTING THREATENING PAMPHLETS OUTSIDE BAPTIST HOSPITAL,
AND THREE OTHER MEMBERS OF SUSPECTED GROUP WERE REPORTEDLY
ARRESTED LATER. POLICE SAID GROUP HAD PLANNED TO HOLD
UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATION ON OCTOBER 9 AND THAT INCIDENTS
WERE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH MEETING OF MOSLEM LEADERS IN
BUKITTINGGI. (POLICE HAD BANNED DISCUSSIONS OF "CHRISTIANI-
ZATION" ISSUE AT THIS MEETING).

4. APPLEWHITE SAID FILE SEIZED FROM SUSPECTED RINGLEADER
WHO WAS AMONG THOSE ARRESTED REPORTEDLY SHOWED CONSIDERABLE
KNOWLEDGE OF BAPTIST ACTIVITIES IN BUKITTINGGI AND OF
CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES ELSEWHERE IN INDONESIA. FILE ALSO
INDICATED THOSE OPPOSED TO HOSPITAL HAD REACHED
CONCLUSION THEY COULD NOT STOP IT FROM OPENING THROUGH
NORMAL CHANNELS AND WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER USING VIOLENCE,
PERHAPS KILLING BAPTISTS.

5. APPLEWHITE SAID SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE TAKING VERY
SERIOUS VIEW OF THESE INCIDENTS AND SUSPECT THEY MAY BE
ASSOCIATED WITH LARGER SUBVERSIVE EFFORT. HE SAID
SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN MEDAN, PADANG, AND JAKATA, INCLUDING
KOPKAMTIB, ARE INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATING THE CASE.

6. GOVERNOR ZAIN EXPLAINED TO APPLEWHITE AFTER OCTOBER 8
ARRESTS THAT THOSE NEW DEVELOPMENTS MAY CREATE FURTHER
DELAY AND THAT WHILE HE PERSONNALLY REMAINS SYMPATHETIC,
HE MUST PROCEED WITH GREAT CAUTION IN VIEW OF RECENT
EVENTS.

7. APPLEWHITE UNCERTAIN OF ULTIMATE EFFECT OF INCIDENTS
ON OPENING OF HOSPITAL; WHEREAS HE HAD EARLIER BELIEVED
SOME EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO GO ON PART OF EMBASSY
MIGHT HELP MOVE THINGS ALONG, HE DOES NOT THINK THIS
IS ANY LONGER SO. HE FEELS GOVERNOR IS BASICALLY AND
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GENUINELY SYMPATHETIC TO BAPTISTS ON HOSPITAL ISSUE AND
IS MOVING AS FAST AS HE CAN/DARES. HE CONTINUES TO DOUBT
THERE IS MUCH LOCAL ANTAGONISM TO HOSPITAL AND FEELS IT
IS BEING USED AS "PING-PONG BALL" IN LARGER POLITCAL
DISPUTE. IN MEANTIME, HE AND HIS WIFE AND OTHER BAPTISTS
AMERICANS IN BUKITTINGGI--MRS AND MRS TOM BAREN AND
MISS EVELYN HAYES--AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN
REASSURED BY AUTHORITIES ABOUT THEIR SAFETY, AND APPLE-

WHITE DOES NOT EXPECT RECURRENCE OF INCIDENTS.

8. AT CHARGE'S REQUEST, APPLEWHITE SAID HE WOULD VISIT
CONSULATEIN MEDAN DURING NEXT VISIT, OR HAVE BOB STUCKY
BRIEF CONSULATE FULLY ON LATEST EVENTS.

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